

PRESS INVITATION

Out of the Deep

Narrated extracts from Oscar Wilde's *De Profundis* and other writings
with music by Bach, Zelenka, Purcell and Campra

Monday 24 March at 7.30pm
Magdalen College, Oxford

Tuesday 25 March at 7.30pm
Smith Square Hall, London

Betty Makharinsky, soprano, **Alexander Chance** countertenor
Guy Cutting, tenor, **Malachy Frame** baritone, **Jonathan Howard** bass
Vache Baroque Band
Jonathan Darbourne conductor

John Wilbye Ye that do live in pleasures plenty
Henry Purcell Sweeter than roses, Jehovah quam multi sunt hostes mei,
In the black dismal dungeon of despair
Jan Dismas Zelenka De Profundis, ZWV 97
Hans Leo Hassler Mein G'müt ist mir verwirret
J. S. Bach Aus der Tiefen rufe ich, Herr, zu dir, BWV 131
Johannes Brahms Herzlich tut mich verlangen
Andre Campra De Profundis, Requiem

"Vache Baroque - Newcomer of the year"
Opera Now

"Ingenious stagecraft and expert musicianship"
The Stage

In a programme of words and music, **Vache Baroque** sets extracts from **Oscar Wilde's *De Profundis* letter, poems and short stories** to a backdrop of haunting Lenten music by Bach, Zelenka, Campra and Purcell in Oxford and London. Commencing at the celebrated author's alma mater Magdalen College, the programme explores Wilde's torment at his incarceration - the isolation, despair, remorse, love and redemption. The youthful cast including soprano **Betty Makharinsky**, counter tenor **Alexander Chance**, tenor **Guy Cutting**, baritone **Malachy Frame** and bass **Jonathan Howard** join the **Vache Baroque Band** conducted by **Jonathan Darbourne**.

As Oscar Wilde wrote in his letter:

"I am completely penniless, and absolutely homeless. Yet there are worse things in the world than that. I am quite candid when I say that rather than go out from this prison with bitterness in my heart against the world, I would gladly and readily beg my bread from door to door...The external things of life seem to me now of no importance at all. You can see to what intensity of individualism I have arrived - or am arriving rather, for the journey is long, and 'where I walk there are thorns.'"

Wilde's *De Profundis* letter was written to his lover Bosie, Lord Alfred Douglas in Reading Gaol. Identifying with the persecution and torment of Jesus Christ, Wilde charts his fall from grace, anguish and his spiritual journey to redemption. The prison guards removed each page of the letter as it was written and the complete collection was only returned to Wilde at his release. The letter was published in an abridged form (removing the identity of the recipient) 5 years after Wilde's death – entitled *De Profundis* (from the depths) from Psalm 130.

Vache Baroque



Founded by **Betty Makharinsky** and **Jonathan Darbourne**, Vache Baroque launched in September 2020 in the gardens of the beautiful historic house **The Vache** in Buckinghamshire (at the end of the Metropolitan Line). Vache Baroque aims to connect a younger and more diverse audience to the lesser-known gems of Baroque music and drama while offering young and disadvantaged people opportunities to be creative alongside leading professionals. Last year, they mounted a production of Charpentier's *Orphée* which will be revived 14-24 July in Buxton this summer.

Over two weekends at the end of the summer, Vache Baroque will mount an opera-circus based on ***Le Carnaval de Venise*** by **Andre Campra** in a new production directed by **James Hurley** with circus performers lead by **Rebecca Solomon** on 30th and 31st August and 6th and 7th September. The cast includes singers **Katie Bray** and **Julieth Lozano** and the Vache Baroque Band.

Since it started, Vache Baroque has produced 4 critically-acclaimed operas, 4 multi-disciplinary projects, 45 in-school workshops, 2 young artist programmes for emerging singers as well as projects for deafblind young people in partnership with Bucks Council SEND Service.



<https://vachebaroque.com/>

For more information on any of the above, please contact

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